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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 685  
By Wood

A RESOLUTION to designate May 1998 as "Better Speech and Hearing Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, since the moment of creation, one of the greatest gifts mankind has received has been the ability to communicate with one another, to express our thoughts and to experience and enjoy the sounds of the world around us; and

WHEREAS, today, over 42 million people in this country are deprived of these treasures as they suffer from hearing, speech and language impairments; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss is no respecter of age, with one in four citizens over 65, and two of every one hundred children affected; and

WHEREAS, the more than three million cases of speech impairment treated each year cost over 30 billion dollars in terms of loss of employment and provision of services; and

WHEREAS, increasing exposure to the intrusive sounds of our highly technical and mobile society will only add to the number of Tennesseans each year who are deprived of the privilege of communication and the quality of life enjoyed by their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, by means of the skills of dedicated workers, developing technology, surgical procedures and rehabilitation paths there is now hope for those affected with hearing, speech and language impairments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-  
HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

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CONCURRING, That the General Assembly does hereby designate the month of May 1998 as "Better Speech and Hearing Month" in Tennessee, and join with celebrated Country Music Artist Joe Diffey, (whose concern for those citizens who are speech, language, and hearing impaired, thus, deprived of life's fullness caused him to serve as Honorary Chairperson and lend his celebrated talents to lead our efforts in Tennessee) in making a steadfast commitment to enabling and enhancing the communicative abilities of all Tennesseans so that not one person should dwell isolated in a world of silence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.